

L 405 - Categories of Terms

BACKGROUND: All terms in LCDGT are assigned to at least one of nine broad categories that serve as the broadest collocation points for terms in those categories. Most terms are assigned to only one category, but in exceptional circumstances multiple categories may be assigned. This instruction sheet provides general guidelines on the assignment of terms to one or more categories. For specific instructions on the assignment of terms to a particular category see the instruction sheet for the category (e.g., L 505 - Educational Level Category). For examples of authority records in MARC 21 format, see L 545 - MARC Authority Records for LCDGT.

The nine categories, with the code for each presented in brackets, are as follows:

Age category [age]	Use for the chronological age of the group members (e.g., Adults ; Children ; Infants).
Educational level category [edu]	Use for the educational level of the group members (e.g., First grade students ; Graduate students ; High school students).
Ethnic/Cultural category [eth]	Use for the ethnic or cultural identification of the group members (e.g., Asian Americans ; Maratha (Indic people) ; Muscogee (North American people)). For ethnic and cultural groups that are also demonyms associated with a supra-national region, a country, or a sub-national region or jurisdiction, prefer the National/Regional category.
Language category [lng]	Use for the language associated with the group members (e.g., Arabic speakers ; English speakers ; Zulu speakers).
Medical, psychological, and disability category [mpd]	Use for the medical or psychological condition, or the physical or mental disability, of the group members (e.g., Breast cancer patients ; Mentally ill ; Deaf).
National/Regional category [nat]	Use for the demonym related to a supra-national region, a country, or a sub-national region or jurisdiction that is associated with the group members (e.g., Angolans ; Bavarians ; Easterners (United States)). For ethnic and cultural groups that are not also demonyms, prefer the Ethnic/Cultural category.

Occupation/Field of Activity category [occ]	Use for the activity or avocation associated with the group members (e.g., Hunters; Mathematicians; Textile artists).
Religion category [rel]	Use for the religion, denomination, sect, religious order, etc., of the group members (e.g., Buddhists; Presbyterians; Shiites; Benedictines).
Social category [soc]	Use for identifiable social groups that cannot be included in the other categories (e.g., Children of divorced parents; Nursing students; Socialists).

1. General rule. Assign each demographic group term to the category of which it is a part, using the code for the category. *Example:*

Category: mpd

Term: **People with eating disorders**

Category: nat

Term: **Arizonans**

Category: occ

Term: **Justices of the peace**

2. Multiple categories.

a. General rule. Assign a term to multiple categories if a term is intrinsically part of multiple categories.

Note: In such cases, the term generally is assigned multiple broader terms (BTs), one from each category. See L 410 - Broader and Narrower Term References for guidelines on assigning BTs.